

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCA-01 NEA-10 VO-03

FBIE-00 INSE-00 SAJ-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 041646Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6603

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT US IS UR

SUBJ: SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION

REF: STATE 41751

1. MOST RECENT INFORMATION ON SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION
PROVIDED IN MOSCOW 3014, 2762 AND 1824.

2. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF MARCH 2, SEVERAL JEWISH
ACTIVISTS CITED RECENT "UNUSUAL" REFUSALS OF EXIT PERMISSION,
WAVE OF TELEPHONE DISCONNECTIONS, AND "NERVOUS BEHAVIOR" OF
AUTHORITIES DURING RECENT ATTEMPT TO PRESENT PETITION TO
CENTRAL COMMITTEE AS EVIDENCE THAT SOMETHING IS IN THE
WIND. SOME SPECULATED THAT THERE WILL BE A SUDDEN
INCREASE IN EMIGRATION TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH UPCOMING
VISITS AND CONGRESSIONAL DEBATES, BUT OTHERS, ESPECIALLY
MOST PROMINENT ACTIVISTS LIKE LEVICHES, RUBINS, SLEPAK,
ARE LESS OPTIMISTIC. MANY SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT
RECENT EVENTS ARE SIGNS THAT SUBJECT OF JEWISH
EMIGRATION IS NOW BEING DEBATED AT HIGH LEVELS,
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WITH OUTCOME UNKNOWN AT PRESENT.

3. IT WAS CLEAR FROM CONVERSATIONS THAT ACTIVISTS THEMSELEVES SEE SECRETARY'S AND PRESIDENT'S VISITS AND MFN/CREDITS DEBATE AND PERFECT OPPORTUNITIES, SOME THINK PERHAPS THEIR LAST, TO APPLY PRESSURE ON THE REGIME, AND THAT THEY INTEND TO EMPLOY ALL MEANS AVAILABLE TO PUBLICIZE THEIR CAUSE. THEY CONSIDER THAT, WITH SOLZHENITYSN GONE, WESTERN PRESS WILL BE WILLING TO FOCUS EVEN MORE CLOSELY ON EMIGRATION ISSUE, AND THEY APPARENTLY PLAN TO USE METHODS SUCH AS HUNGER STRIKES, PETITIONS, AND DEMONSTRATIONS TO DRAMATIZE THEIR CASES. EMBASSY ASSUMES MOSCOW-BASED JOURNALISTS WILL BE RECEPTIVE, AND UPSURGE IN SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVITY, AS WELL AS IN WESTERN PRESS ATTENTION, SEEMS LIKELY OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS.

4. WIFE OF PROFESSOR VITALIY RUBIN CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT HER HUSBAND AND PROFESSOR AZBEL HAD ENDED THEIR HUNGER STRIKE FOR HEALTH REASONS. SHE WAS HAPPY TO HEAR OF EMBASSY APPROACH TO FONMIN ON COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY INVITATION, AND HOPED EMBASSY WOULD ACTIVELY PURUSE CASE. MEANWHILE, LEV MODEL, WHO IS ON US REP LIST (FATHER AND MOTHER ARE IN U.S.), HAS BEGUN HUNGER STRIKE AND IS SEEKING TO CONTACT WESTERN PRESS FOR PUBLICITY.
STOESSEL

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